

THE JERUSALEM POST

Founded at The Palestine Post in 1948. Published daily except on Saturdays, in Jerusalem by The Jerusalem Post Limited, Registered at the G.P.O.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: Israel 12.00, Foreign 12.50, per year.

Thursday, March 21, 1950, Volume 5, No. 21, 21st March, 1950

THE slow progress made in dealing with the harmful effects of monopolies and price-rings in industry and trade practices upon H.M. Government to take all possible measures by legislation and other means, to protect the public interest...

begin a recent motion in the House of Commons by Mr. Harold Wilson, who was President of the Board of Trade under the Labour Government.

In Israel more than a year has passed since Mr. Peretz Bernstein, Minister of Commerce and Industry, opened a Knesset debate with a vigorous speech on the danger of cartels. The Suezette Committee was then set up, and a Bill was to be tabled within three months — an over-optimistic estimate. During the ensuing months, the existence of numerous cartels and various restrictive practices was clearly established, and last January the Committee submitted two reports, opinions apparently being divided on the question whether only "horizontal", i.e. those affecting producers of one type of goods, or "vertical" cartels, also covering successive processes, such as spinning and weaving, should be the object of the proposed legislation.

Apart from this geometrical controversy among the experts, it has become abundantly clear that both the consuming public and the economy as a whole must be protected against malpractices in certain sectors of commerce and industry. The case of the struggle and defeat of the grocer on Mt. Carmel, reported on another page, is perhaps of secondary importance, but its particulars are instructive. Some time before this incident, a Government transportation tender was rendered senseless because all the companies concerned submitted identical bids; while the Army has complained of being compelled to import certain supplies which were offered locally only at an unreasonable price. Similar practices were revealed in a number of other cases.

In a country the size of Israel, some monopolies are inevitable, and the public interest may be best served by State management of such important monopoly services as the telephone or railways. There is also good reason to encourage mass production and the extensive market research made possible by the joint efforts of manufacturers, for these can reduce costs. But the fact remains that free private enterprise without competition is a contradiction in terms, and that a general restrictive policy, by one side, with the attendant organized boycott of non-conforming firms, opens the way to profiting by protecting unfair profits. The dangers of this method of maintaining an artificial price level are all the greater in Israel, which is vitally interested in producing efficiently and competitively for export.

What is needed therefore, is a Fair Trade Law making compulsory the registration of any form of association formed for the purpose of regulating prices and other terms of sales. In addition, the law should establish maximum profit rates, instead of leaving these to the necessarily biased view of the trading association, and make it illegal to enforce rates higher than those, though not necessarily illegal to attempt to sell at the higher rate if the individual shopkeeper wishes to do so or offers special services. Legitimate retail traders in Israel have suffered for a number of years from the competition of street traders who pay neither rent nor taxes, and they would find a Fair Trade Law as much to their own advantage as will the public.



Brigadier M.F. Benjamin, O.C. Jewish Brigade Group, taking the salute at the formation's first parade in the Western Desert

Churchill Behind Formation Of Jewish Brigade

The following are two passages sent by Winston Churchill to the formation of the Jewish Brigade Group, which is working its tenth anniversary today.

10 July 1944

Prime Minister to Sir Edward Bridges

In your report (about the War Cabinet meeting on forming a Jewish fighting force) you say that it was decided that a brigade group would be carefully examined. I certainly understood and hold very strongly the view that a brigade group should be made. When the War Office say they will carefully examine a thing, they mean they will do it. In the matter must therefore be set down for an early meeting of the War Cabinet only this week, and the Secretary of State for War should be warned of my objection. A copy of the further letter from Dr. Weizmann may also be forwarded to the War Office.

Secretary of the War Cabinet.

26 July 1944

Prime Minister to Secretary of State for War

I am in general agreement with your proposals (for a Jewish fighting force), but I think the brigade should be formed and sent to Italy as soon as possible, and worked up to a brigade group there as time goes on by the attachment of the other units.

2. I like the idea of the Jews of their fellow-countrymen in Central Europe, and I think it would give a great deal of satisfaction in the United States.

3. The points of detail which occur to me are:

I do not think this brigade should be any more liable to be split by serious military emergencies than any other unit in the Middle East. On the contrary only a serious emergency should affect it, considering it represents.

I believe it is the wish of the Jews themselves to fight the Germans anywhere. It is with the Germans they have their quarrel. There is no need to put the conditions in such a form as to imply that the War Office's infinite wisdom might wish to send the Jews to fight the Japanese, or that otherwise there would be no use in having the brigade group.

Surely political as well as military considerations govern the demobilization or disposal of any of the forces under British command. In the case of a contingent of this kind, should be demobilized for political reasons either for dispersing it or for maintaining it after the war.

I will consult the King about this (proposals that the force should have its own flag). I cannot conceive why this martyred race, scattered about the world and suffering as no other race has done at this juncture, should be denied the satisfaction of having a flag. However, not only the King but the Cabinet might have views on this.

I should like to be able to visit Italy with General Wilson, and also very likely I shall see General Paget. Meanwhile, please go ahead within the lines proposed and negotiate with the Jewish Agency. Remember the object of this is to give pleasure and expression to rightful sentiments, and that it certainly will be welcomed widely in the United States. Let me see the form of any announcement that is made, story at Israel policemen in

Is This an Armistice?

(Incidents reported in The Jerusalem Post during the month of March)

TUESDAY, March 14. — Egyptian patrol broke into Government building in vicinity of Rishon Le Zion, searched offices and removed documents. Several documents were taken, including a copy of the Egyptian passport. The patrol was fired upon by a Jewish patrol, and the patrol was driven back. The patrol was fired upon by a Jewish patrol, and the patrol was driven back. The patrol was fired upon by a Jewish patrol, and the patrol was driven back.

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TUESDAY, March 21. — Egyptian patrol broke into Government building in vicinity of Rishon Le Zion, searched offices and removed documents. Several documents were taken, including a copy of the Egyptian passport. The patrol was fired upon by a Jewish patrol, and the patrol was driven back. The patrol was fired upon by a Jewish patrol, and the patrol was driven back. The patrol was fired upon by a Jewish patrol, and the patrol was driven back.

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FRIDAY, March 24. — Egyptian patrol broke into Government building in vicinity of Rishon Le Zion, searched offices and removed documents. Several documents were taken, including a copy of the Egyptian passport. The patrol was fired upon by a Jewish patrol, and the patrol was driven back. The patrol was fired upon by a Jewish patrol, and the patrol was driven back. The patrol was fired upon by a Jewish patrol, and the patrol was driven back.

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Belgium: State vs. Church

By A Special Correspondent

THE present violent crisis in Belgium is regarded by many of the participants as going deeper even than that over the abdication of King Leopold II. They see it as a fight for the control of the future of the country.

Belgium, though economically fortunate, is sadly divided between Catholics and anti-Catholics or anti-clericals. There are virtually no competing religious and the present main point of political difference is over the subsidizing of schools.

The Catholics have an increasing population, and to ensure their final success, are anxious to control the education of their youth. The Socialists and Liberals want to increase the effectiveness of the state-controlled schools, as a way of lessening priestly influence, which in Belgium has significant political implications.

Cause of Clash

Before 1930, all Catholic primary schools were subsidised by city or village councils. And in Catholic districts like Flanders they adopted Catholic schools and did not provide neutral schools.

Old Racial Feud

In the opposition to this law there is no trace of anti-Semitism or economic grievance. That it is both, however, is a very real feeling. Since two-thirds of the Flemish and only one-third of the Walloons are practicing Catholics.

Faced with the Government challenge, the bishops have adopted a *Passifist* attitude. They have encouraged the faithful to stop paying taxes and to withdraw their savings from the Post Office.

Both sides have been uncommonly intransigent. For a long time the Catholics have refused to accept Socialist offers of a state syllabus and sanitary control in the schools which would be accompanied by subsidies.

Now the Socialists have proposed a militant bill that has reunited the Catholic Party (Social Christians), who were tending to split into Rightist and trade-union wings, in opposition to it.

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Volunteering Festivities Column

ANNOUNCEMENT No. 1

Two special trains will take those who attended the Stadium Rally back to Haifa and points north. The first train will leave at 12.15 p.m. from the Station near Haifa, and the second at 11.45 p.m. from Armonoth Station.

All ex-members of A.P.I. meet today at 12.30 p.m. at Cafe Royal, Rehov Shalom corner Rehov Abba Haim for their first Assembly.

After the Assembly they will join in the March-Past. Dress: Long trousers, white shirt.

The men of the transport units meet at Obel Haam Hall at 12 noon.

The standard that will be presented by the Zahal Volunteers at the Flag-of-Volunteering presentation, has been designed by the Chief Officer Shikmon of the Israel Police.

The Holy Land Philatelist

ISRAELI STAMP MONTHLY

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KEEPING POSTED

Excursion season has come around again, and at bus stations and near the schools there are crowds of children in stiff-looking khaki, with bugles on their shoulders, collecting eagerly about three hours ahead of time. The older ones have usually discovered the pleasures of travelling light, but the smaller and thinner the excursionist, the larger his pack is likely to be. We saw a boy we know to be about 12, loaded down by an American